



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO

December 1, 2016  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

---

P.O. BOX 85524  
San Diego, CA 92186-5524  
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2775/2705

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joel San Juan – District 1  
Rebecca Hernandez, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 2  
Jenifer Mendel, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – District 2  
Helen Rees – District 2  
Deanne George – District 3  
Colin MacKinnon – District 3  
Ed Weiner – District 3  
Tom Behr – District 4  
Jerry Hall – District 4  
John Sturm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – District 4  
Judith Yates, Member-at-Large (MH) – District 4  
Phil Deming, Chair – District 5  
Richard McGaffigan – District 5  
K.C. Strang – District 5

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Eyra Leeper – District 1  
Carmelita Trujillo – District 1  
Michael Matthews – District 2  
Supervisor Dave Roberts – BOS

**STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Alfredo Aguirre, Director, County Behavioral Health Services Division  
Traci Finch, Administrative Analyst III, County Behavioral Health Services Division

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting was called to order by Phil Deming, Chairperson, at 3:31 p.m. at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101, Room 302/303.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Members of the BHAB introduced themselves.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 3, 2016**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Joel San Juan, the BHAB approved the minutes of November 3, 2016, as written.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Benson from Recovery International came before the BHAB to talk about housing concerns in San Diego. Specifically, she feels that repurposing some of the developments around the county for the homeless would be a win-win situation. Her idea is that a group of individuals who are homeless could move in for a period of two years, during which time they would be responsible for the remodel, repair and upkeep of the property, thus learning new skills to prepare them to live on their own. After the two year period, another group of individuals who are homeless would move in and learn a new skillset. Ms. Benson also expressed her desire to see a rent ceiling in San Diego to make housing more affordable.

**V. ACTION ITEM – Whole Person Wellness Pilot Board Letter – Nicholas “Dr. Nick” Yphantides, MD, MPH (HHSA Chief Medical Officer)**

**Presentation:** Alfredo Aguirre introduced Dr. Nick Yphantides, Chief Medical Officer for the Health and Human Services Agency. Dr. Yphantides presented a PowerPoint that gave an overview on “Whole Person Wellness” and which covered the following service areas to be provided under the initiative:

- Health and Housing: An Integrated Approach
- Background
- Partners
- San Diego’s Proposed Target Population
- Whole Person Wellness Service Model
- Improved Health Outcomes Flowchart
- Next Steps

After Dr. Yphantides’ presentation to the BHAB, Alfredo presented the Board Letter Action Item to the BHAB:

The Board of Supervisors has approved several key actions related to the County’s housing and service delivery infrastructure for vulnerable individuals. One such action was the establishment of Project One for All, a commitment to provide intensive wraparound services to all individuals who are homeless with serious mental illness, upon the recommendation of Chairman Ron Roberts and Supervisor Greg Cox on February 2, 2016 (14).

Furthering the Board’s goals of providing integrated housing and services, on June 28, 2016 (6) the Board of Supervisors authorized the submission of a proposal for a “Whole Person Care” pilot project through the California Department of Health Care Services, and to enter into any resulting contract with the State. The County has been notified that it will be funded to implement a Whole Person Care pilot project to be known as “Whole Person Wellness”.

The focus of Whole Person Wellness is to provide comprehensive system navigation for individuals with complex physical and/or behavioral health needs who are homeless or are experiencing unstable living circumstances. This set of circumstances results in high costs to Medi-Cal and other public systems due to frequent Emergency Department visits and lengthy acute hospital stays. This action to procure Whole Person Wellness services will be heard by the Board of Supervisors on December 13, 2016.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, staff’s recommendation that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board support the recommendation to authorize procurement of one or more contracts to provide Whole Person Wellness services.**

**DISCUSSION:**

Q: Was any input sought from clients/consumers who are having struggles maintaining a home or medical appointments?

A: The County received a tremendous amount of input from stakeholders and multiple agencies serving these stakeholders. While clients were not specifically included in the initial planning, this proposal can be looked at as a type of concept paper, so some items are very vague. It was done that way so as to not jeopardize procurement, yet moving forward more segments of the community will be involved in the process and clients and consumers can be engaged to help design the program.

Q: Are any steps being taken to cover housing costs?

A: This issue is one strategic piece of a broader picture. Because Medi-Cal explicitly excludes paying for housing, that part was not incorporated into the design of this pilot proposal.

- Q: Does the County envision this program serving children and youth, especially as many areas are seeing a lot of issues affecting kids out of their homes, mental illness, in the juvenile justice system, etc.?
- A: The Department of Health Care Services limits this program to adults aged 18-64. However, there is some talk of how to integrate programming for the transitional age youth population (18-24) down the road.
- Q: From experience working with various homeless groups, there is a great need for open data available in real time that shows what programs such individuals would be eligible for, as well as some sort of centralized coordinating system or calendar that shows what programs or services are happening on any given day. It seems there is disconnect among all the different church/charitable organization programs, city-funded programs and county-funded programs. In addition, there is concern that the larger County contracted tech providers may not be enough to serve the population. Therefore, will the smaller community and civic tech providers be included in the proposal as well, since they could provide additional tools to help make the startup process much smoother?
- A: Attention was called to the list of partnerships given in the presentation that includes two very important data organizations: 2-1-1 San Diego and San Diego Health Connect. This pilot program will push the envelope in terms of data sharing among the County, 2-1-1, San Diego Health Connect, and the Medi-Cal managed health plans in terms of doing some health sharing that has not been done in the past. The Whole Person data centric view is a critical part of the program, and the County is using this program with its unique elements to hopefully lay some foundations that will allow the County to enhance data sharing as it is appropriate with larger populations.
- Q: What is the process for bid and whom does it encompass?
- A: The bidding process was summarized briefly; it is all inclusive.
- Q: Where will the clients live? Will they have housing available to them given the shortage of housing? Will this program stimulate the development of housing, or will the homeless, after receiving services, go back to their tents?
- A: Not all of the clients the program will serve will be homeless. Some of the services built into the program will be to teach those clients who are at risk for homelessness how to be model tenants in order increase their likelihood of being placed into housing and provide them with stability to stay housed. Again, this question fits into the broader effort. There is some intersection with Project One for All and some of the other programs the County has going on in pursuing additional housing alternatives. In addition, the County is looking into incentives with landlords and housing developers.
- Q: What impact, if any, could the current election have on this program?
- A: Local dollars are going into this effort that the state will match with federal funding. In the event of a paradigm shift, there are a lot of things that would be up in the air; all we can do is move forward in a positive direction and strive to build a strong enough program that would be hard to take away.
- Q: Is any planning going on toward sustainability after the 4-year pilot period?
- A: Efforts toward sustainability will be made over time. It is the County's hope that these types of services become implicitly part of the scope of coverage included in Medicare managed care.
- Q: Is there any funding from city sources?
- A: Each housing authority jurisdiction is contributing toward their fair share of housing to meet the need for individuals with serious mental illness within their respective jurisdiction.

ON MOTION of Jerry Hall, seconded by Joel San Juan, the BHAB voted to support the recommendation to authorize procurement of one or more contracts to provide Whole Person Wellness services, with discussion as noted above.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**VI. BHAB DISCUSSION – 2017 Planning Calendar (Phil Deming/All)**

Phil Deming called attention to two handouts included in the BHAB packets that would shape the discussion for the next item on the agenda: 1) Behavioral Health Advisory Board Calendar of Presentations for 2017 and 2) Priorities of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board for the 2017 Calendar Year. Traci Finch summarized the Calendar of Presentations and explained how BHAB priorities for 2017 would fit into the schedule.

- Ed Weiner asked if there was some flexibility in the order of presentations scheduled for 2017 and was assured that the order was not set in stone.
- Richard McGaffigan requested more background work be done on priorities either with subject matter experts, panels, or ad hoc workgroups formed to look into the topic more and then report back at BHAB meetings.
- Judith Yates would like to see more of 2017 priorities fleshed out in the calendar so we have more meaningful content over substance.
- Rebecca Hernandez had a question about the second priority and what that would entail. She also expressed her concern that alcohol and other drug issues are being pushed back in favor of mental health issues as the top areas of priority. For instance, the number 4 priority is directly tied in with the number 2 priority.
- Jerry Hall noted that the BHAB should be working on matters that are in sync with items going before the Board of Supervisors so that the BHAB is not giving last minute feedback on Board Letters, etc. He also expressed his desire to see a PERT presentation a month or two before budget enhancements or the Agency budget presentation so that the BHAB can better understand if PERT's budgetary needs are in sync with the overall Agency budget.
- Jenifer Mendel feels that the BHAB has enough topics on its plate right now. Prop 64 is a big topic and one that should be tied in to gaps in services.
- K.C. Strang noted tying alcohol and other drug services in with the top 3 priorities.
- Helen Rees spoke about the lack of long term care options. She is also concerned about the impact of Prop 64 and the potential impact on public safety.
- Deanne George would like to see presentations that focus on the gaps and weaknesses in the continuum of care.
- Ed Weiner feels that whereas the BHAB is reflective of the adult community, we should also consider how priorities impact our youth.
- John Sturm feels BHAB should be more focused on what is realistically happening in the community now. For example, in reference to Prop 64, rather than trying to change, stop or reverse legislation that has already passed, the BHAB should move on to how to address potential impact on our communities.
- Rick McGaffigan spoke about the Blue Ribbon Commission report on marijuana and requested it be sent out to the BHAB. He also feels presentations should be delivered in a panel format where the BHAB gets to ask questions of the experts instead of listening to a cut and dry presentation.

The Executive Committee will take the concerns and feedback from today's discussion back to their meetings to develop a calendar that is more reflective of the priorities as well as emerging needs as they come up. The Executive Committee will also take a look at the types and mechanics of presentations to make sure they are helpful as well as informative.

Phil Deming, at the suggestion of Judith Yates, asked BHAB members for January presentation ideas based on staff availability. Presentation requests included:

- PERT panel presentation comprised of a Police Chief from El Cajon and representatives of PERT (Rick McGaffigan)
- Preliminary presentation on known gaps in alcohol and other drug and mental health services presented by BHS staff (Jerry Hall)
- Discussion session with a few legislatures, e.g., Todd Gloria, as to their priorities and what they are involved in in the mental health area (Tom Behr)
- Explanation of content in 10-year-roadmap (Judith Yates)

Jenifer Mendel made the motion to have a comprehensive, in-depth review of *Live Well* Regional Forums results and an explanation of the content of the 10-Year Roadmap at the January meeting.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Alfredo Aguirre, Director, Behavioral Health Services**

- Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Update
  - Alfredo Aguirre spoke about some of the challenges in determining the total cost of Drug Medi-Cal, setting the provider rates for services, and identifying some of the risks to the County. Staff will be presenting to Nick Macchione, Director of HHSA, later this month.
- Affordable Care Act: post-election impact
  - Alfredo Aguirre called attention to documents included in packets as well as those emailed to BHAB members detailing potential rollbacks or elimination of the Affordable Care Act due to the change in administration.
- The Beacon Apartments
  - Information item distributed in Supplemental Packet describing The Beacon Apartments, a new 44-unit permanent supportive housing community proposed for San Diego's East Village on C Street. The County is partnering with the San Diego Housing Commission for subsidies.
- All Provider Luncheon reminder: Monday, December 12, 2016, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, at Anchors Catering. BHAB members who would like to attend should let Traci Finch know and submit payment by December 7.

**VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Phil Deming, Behavioral Health Services Advisory Board Chair**

- 2016 Reflections
  - Phil Deming highlighted some of the issues addressed by the BHAB during 2016.
  - The Annual Report is starting to be compiled by Traci Finch, which will include a write-up from Phil.
  - Phil Deming thanked BHAB members for all of their work and contributions to the Board and is looking forward to working with them in the coming year.

**IX. ADVOCATE REPORTING**

- Phil Deming announced that the BHAB Executive Committee was informed that the Advocacy roles that have been instituted in the Bylaws are actually not a requirement under any state Welfare and Institutions Code and that it is probably a carryover from a former.
- Rebecca Hernandez announced that there was a phenomenal Drug Endangered Children training program for first responders, law enforcement, social workers, and child protective service workers held in November. The information presented at the training was very compelling and useful, and she will be happy to send materials out to the BHAB through Traci Finch about the Drug Endangered Program is and why it is so important to our communities.

**X. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Phil Deming announced that the BHAB will present Supervisor Dave Roberts with a letter of appreciation and certificate for his service to the BHAB during the last two years. It is not yet known which Supervisor will fill his seat on the BHAB.



**XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Jenifer Mendel, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

AYES: All

**Brown Act Procedure:** *As required by California Government Code 54950 et seq. (Ralph M. Brown Act), a copy of the packet of information that was mailed to Behavioral Health Advisory Board members at the point of posting of this agenda has been placed at the reception desk at 3255 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108, for public inspection, and is available at the site of the meeting for public inspection. Members of the public wanting their own copy of the advance materials may request them under Government Code 6250 et seq. (Public Records Act) and receive them on payment of copying charges of \$0.20/page, and actual mailing charges, if mailing of the material is requested. If you are planning to attend and need special accommodations, you must call Jackson Alexander at (858) 505-6521, at least three days in advance of the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,



Allison V. Williams, Secretary to the Director  
Behavioral Health Services

Reviewed by,



Traci Finch, Administrative Analyst III  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board Support Staff

Approved by,



Phillip R. Deming, Chairperson  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board

For BHAB documents, agenda, minutes and Director's Reports, please read or download from the Network of Care Behavioral Health Advisory Board at:  
<http://sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/content.aspx?id=257>